

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants:

1. Cancel claims 9-12, 18, 20, 21 and 23, without prejudice or disclaimer or without acquiescing in the rejections;
2. Respectfully traverse all rejections and objections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 13-17, 19 and 22. Applicants do not acquiesce, however, in the Examiner's reasoning regarding the allowability of those claims. Solely in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel claims 9-12, 18, 20, 21 and 23. Applicants reserve the right to file continuing applications to cover disclosed subject matter not encompassed by the currently pending claims.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: **/H. Warren Burnam, Jr./**
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